

Judicial Branch
Communications
Office
One Noble Drive
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2646 x359

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Chief Justice Kenison

A new portrait of Frank R. Kenison, who served as Chief Justice for 25 years until his retirement in 1977, now hangs in the Supreme Court building in Concord. He was first appointed to the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice in 1946. The artist is Richard Whitney of Stoddard, N.H. (more on page 7)

SPOTLIGHT:

LEADING CHANGE AND TRANSITION

"Leading Change and Transition" is a seminar launched by the court system this fall to promote positive, open communication among clerks, registers, managers and staff about the impact of major changes now underway in the Judicial Branch.

"The idea is to better anticipate change and deal with change rather than just react to it," said Probate Court Coordinator Marty Wagner, who organized the program with Judicial Branch Education Coordinator Barbara Sweet. "Our goal is to give managers strategies

[more on page 2...]

STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE NH FISHER CATS

The Staff Advisory Committee has begun planning for a Judicial Branch family outing in June 2006 at the Fisher Cats Ballpark in Manchester, home to New Hampshire's minor league baseball franchise. The Fisher Cats, who won the Eastern League championship in 2004, are the Double A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays.

SAC chair Diane Caron is considering dates and collecting information on group rates for seats and food at the ballpark. The Fisher Cats face the Portland Sea Dogs on June 17 and 18th in Manchester and, a week earlier, on June 10 and 11th, the team plays the Altoona Curve. You can get more information on the Fisher Cats, and the Manchester ballpark, at www.nhfisercats.com.

[more on page 2...]

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE BRODERICK

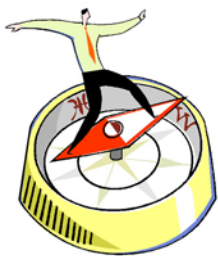
Change is underway in our court system, sometimes faster, and more unsettling, than many of us expected. Statewide expansion of the Family Division is the most dramatic restructuring in our court system since the 1980s, affecting judges and masters as well as the staff in Superior, District and Probate Courts. Our new case management system, "Odyssey," will require our staff to adapt to major changes in the way we collect and save information. The Odyssey system is now scheduled to be rolled out in January 23 at Concord District Court. At the same time, a team of court employees is taking a close look at the methods we have used for years to process our cases. The familiar phrase "We've always done it this way" is no longer operative.

As Chief Justice, I know that all of you are committed to making the changes necessary to improve the administration of justice and make it more accessible and affordable for all our citizens. Open and positive communication among our judges, clerks and registers, and our staff, about how to adjust to change is essential. With that in mind, Marty Wagner, the Probate Court Coordinator, along with Barbara Sweet, Coordinator of Judicial Branch Education, arranged a series of seminars that began this fall titled "Leading Change and Transition." As Barbara herself put it, "You can't expect people to turn on a dime... they have to go through a transition, everybody does."

In this edition of Court Connections, you can read more about this effort to help us work as a team as we transition into new ways of doing business. Change takes time and patience, communication and commitment. I am confident that if judges, masters, managers and staff

[more on page 2...]





Spotlight continued...

to implement change and prepare for the effects of change."

Implementation of the new case management system, family division expansion, revamping of case processing practices, and anticipated recommendations from the Citizens Commission on the State Courts, will have a direct impact on court employees.

More than 50 clerks, registers and supervisors attended three sessions conducted at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Concord

by Jim Kimberly, President of Sapphire Consulting in Amherst. Participants said the program provided them with concrete ideas to bring back to office staff and helped create a positive mindset about change. "It was refreshing to get a new and exciting perspective on how to deal with change," one participant wrote in evaluating the seminar. Another participant said "it made me reflect on my current practices."

"We want people to see that how they react to the changes they are given to implement makes a huge difference in how their team performs," Kimberly said in an interview with **Court Connections**. "Maybe they can't control what the legislature will say or what the court will hand down, but a lot of times they can have control over what happens day to day," Kimberly said.

With judges, clerks, registers and staff at more than 60 locations around the state, Kimberly said, the challenge is to develop a unified positive approach toward implementing change.

"You have to work on creating a sense that we are in this together and decisions can be made together," he said.

A similar program is also being developed for all presiding judges. Plans also include training "change facilitators" to work with courts throughout the state as major changes are underway. ■■■

Fisher Cats continued...

The SAC met with Chief Justice John T. Broderick Jr. at the District Court in Keene on September 30. In addition to selecting a site for the outing, SAC members also agreed to develop a system wide survey to identify a concrete list of priorities from the staff perspective.

Chief Justice Broderick has decided to extend the term of the current members of the SAC for another year. At its next meeting, scheduled for January 20th at Manchester District Court, the SAC will elect a new chairman from its members and Diane Caron, who has served as the SAC's first chair, will become a member of the committee. Diane is the civil equity and ADR clerk in Rockingham County.

In a separate election, the SAC members chose Keene District Court clerk Patrick Ryan to be its representative on the Judicial Branch Legislative Committee. The committee, which includes judges, clerks, registers and marital masters, will review develop the judicial branch position on bills slated to come before the 2006 legislative session.

Please send suggestions and ideas for the SAC to consider directly to Diane Caron at dcaron@courts.state.nh.us. ■■■

Jim Kimberly's Transition Tips

Successful transitions lead to commitment. Poor transitions yield just compliance. What do you want?

Think of the transitions we are all familiar with—quitting smoking, marriage, a new job, moving, adolescence, middle and late adulthood, living on your own, divorce. All successful transitions occur over time and with psychological adjustments—not just because someone said "just do it," or gave a "Go Get'em!" speech, or because you had a good night's sleep!

So what can you do to help yourself through the phases of transition?

- Acknowledge the three phases:
 1. Something ends.
 2. Rollercoaster of chaos—what are we doing?
 3. New beginnings start to take shape.
- Ask for the purpose of the change—what problem does the change solve?
- Ask that the organization and managers honor and show respect for the past.
- Ask for a picture of what the new change looks like—how we will know when we are successful?
- Ask for the plan of implementation and get regular updates.
- What's my part in the plan?
- Give your co-worker (and yourself!) a break, everybody goes through this a little differently.
- Focus on what you can control—not what you can't.
- Offer your creative solutions to help the situation, don't just complain!
- Smile, take a deep breath and find some fun in each day.

"There is a natural angst around change."

Seminar participant

Chief's Message continued...

support each other through the process, and remain open and flexible about concerns, the end result will be a stronger, more effective justice system.

As 2005 draws to a close, I am thankful to all of our judges, masters and staff for their hard work, their loyalty and their commitment to justice and to the people of our state. I look forward to a new year full of change, challenge and success. Best wishes to each of you and your families in 2006. ■■■

UNEXPECTED REUNION

The complete version of this article appeared in the Coos County Democrat and was written by reporter Jill Brooks. Our thanks to Jill for sharing this story with Court Connections.

LANCASTER — **Bob Holmes** and **Mike Gentili** have faces that are familiar to most who walk into the Coös County Courthouse. They are both part-time deputies with the Coös County Sheriff's Office. The two men have worked together for a little over a year.



Mike Gentili, left, and Bob Holmes, Deputy Sheriffs for the Coös County Sheriff's Office at the County Courthouse in Lancaster. Photo by Jill Brooks.

This past May, during a casual conversation, they discovered that they joined the Coast Guard at the same time, took the same bus from New Bedford, Mass., on the same day, to Cape May, N.J., and completed basic training together 36 years ago. Mike was 17; Bob was 23.

"We both knew that the other had been in the Coast Guard," Mike said, "but we didn't realize that we were in the same class of recruits!"

To refresh their memories, Bob, who also works as a part-time Court Security Officer, brought in a photo he still has of the recruit's graduating class, Mike always held the company flag, and Bob was the "old man" of the group.

After basic training, the men went their separate ways, never getting to know each other. Bob eventually served for a year with a Coast Guard Squadron 3 in Vietnam, as a "River Rat" but was first stationed on a ship with the 1st North Atlantic Ice patrol. "This was in the days before satellites and all commercial and military traffic bounced their signals off us. We also patrolled for icebergs," Bob said. Following his stint in the Coast Guard, Bob got into the property management business in the North Country, where he had attended Franconia College, and stayed in that business for 25 years before being hired as a deputy sheriff.

Mike worked Port Security in Virginia after basic training and was then sent to Gloucester City, N.J., across from the Philadelphia Naval Yard, where he worked on a 65 foot harbor tug inspecting freighters and tankers coming into port. He was also part of many search and rescue missions.

After his tour of duty, "Mike became a professional firefighter with the New Bedford (Mass.) Fire Department for 30 years. He and his wife Linda, who honeymooned in New Hampshire, moved to Berlin three years ago.

"The first day I started," Mike said, "Bob had a day off. When I met him the next day, I said 'You must be the only one I didn't meet,' when in truth, he had been the only one I did know, even though it was 36 years ago." 🇺🇸

IN BRIEF...

Pam Neville, Class of 2006, Leadership New Hampshire



Regional Court administrator Pam Neville, who has worked for the NH State Court system for the past 22 years, is a member of the Class of 2006 of Leadership New Hampshire, an organization that selects, trains and builds a network of leaders for the state of New Hampshire.

Each year's class of associates attends 12 seminar days held around the state. Each of the sessions provides an in-depth exploration of a topic of great importance to New Hampshire, including juvenile justice, education, culture and arts, community leadership, government and politics, health care and economic opportunities.

Pam began her career in the Merrimack County Superior Court. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire's Whittemore School of Business and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire. She is also an adjunct faculty member for the University of New Hampshire Masters of Public Administration program, teaching criminal justice administration and human resource management.

This year's Leadership New Hampshire class marks the thirteenth year of the statewide leadership development program. Since 1992, over 431 citizens from around the state have participated in the program. Leadership New Hampshire graduates include senior executives in some of New Hampshire's most prestigious corporations, government officials on local and state levels, independent business people, and non-profit executives.

NEWS FROM THE PROBATE COURT

By Patty Cole

Office of the Administrative Judge for the Probate Courts

The Probate Court's Pro Se Committee is exploring methods for better serving self-represented litigants. Merrimack Probate Court is piloting a "help desk" project in which pro se parties, who receive basic assistance at the counter with filings, are also asked a series of questions to help them complete forms more accurately. As the new year approaches, the Probate Court Pro Se Committee will continue to explore options to best serve litigants coming to court without a lawyer, whether it be through new technology or personal contact.

Last summer, all New Hampshire probate judges and registers attended a conference at the White Mountain Hotel & Resort in Conway that focused on the need for improving services to pro se litigants. Judge Angela Ordonez of the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court presented that state's "Judicial Guidelines for Hearings Involving Self-Represented Litigants." The NH Probate Judges are planning a follow up meeting to further explore the modification and use of the guidelines to meet their needs in accordance with New Hampshire law.

In addition, Attorney David A. Schwartz, also from the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court, made a presentation regarding staff concerns in assisting pro se litigants. Attorney Schwartz suggested ten important points for judges and registers to bring back to their staff:

- Be consistent
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
- Nobody knows everything. Don't be afraid to say: "I don't have the answer but I will find out."
- Protect yourself and other personnel. Safety is paramount.
- Be professional
- Everyone who wants to file should file. Do everything you can, within legal and ethical limits, to help litigants complete the filing process.
- Make suggestions for revisions, changes or improvements in the way your court operates
- Understand where the litigant is coming from (literally). Appreciate what an exasperated litigant may have gone through to arrive at your counter.
- Seek out further training. Laws and procedures change over time.
- Celebrate and acknowledge accomplishments.

Transition

Senior Associate Justice Joseph P. Nadeau, shown with his wife Catherine, is retiring December 31 after 37 years in the state judiciary. He plans to focus on his longstanding commitment to international judicial education.



The New Hampshire probate court web pages provide information that can be useful to self-represented parties, including on-line forms and instructions, as well as information on guardianships of adults, adoptions, estates, names changes and probate court mediation. Through discussions at the conference and subsequent meetings, members of the Probate Pro Se Committee are also collecting additional information that probate courts throughout the state are making available to the public.

The overall goal of the committee is to standardize the information available for all probate courts so that each court has the advantage of the best information available, and to increase the amount of information available, whether in paper form, online or in person. ■■■

IN BRIEF...

Update on the Family Division

From Family Division Administrator
Gina Apicelli

The family division has been up and running in Sullivan County since September 12, 2005. We will be opening five new family division locations in Carroll and Coos Counties on Friday, April 28. In Coos County, there will be the Berlin Family Division, the Lancaster Family Division, and the Colebrook Family Division. The Carroll County locations will be the Conway Family Division, located at the Northern Carroll County District Court, and the Ossipee Family Division, located at the Carroll County courthouse.

Openings for regional clerk positions in these locations have been posted on the JIBB. Start dates will not be until sometime in March. Once these interviews are conducted and the successful candidates are chosen, we will finalize the remaining staff assignments for all five new Family Division locations. We know many people are waiting for this information. We will proceed as quickly as we are able through this process.

The original Family Division report called for two regional clerks to cover Carroll and Coos counties, as well as each sharing coverage for part of Grafton County. Fortunately, we have recently been given the go-ahead to modify this plan and will have a regional clerk for each county.

JUST REWARDS FOR EXERCISE

By Julie Howard
Strafford County Superior Court Clerk

The Strafford Superior court staff participated in "Get Up and Go," an exercise incentive program this year. The judges, the marital master, myself and my deputy clerk each pitched in \$10 a month for five months, April 1 through August 30 to underwrite the program. We purchased pedometers for the staff so everyone could participate. Everyone was urged to exercise in any way, shape or form, be it walking, running, dancing, hiking, raking, gardening, walking their dogs, walking their kids, or walking their hamsters. For every time each person exercised during the month, either at lunch or on their own time, he or she filled out a tag with the date of the exercise.

Each week, all the tags for that week went into the jury selection "bingo" box (yes, it is the same box we draw juror numbers from!). The person whose name was drawn won a small, donated prize, from a bottle of hand lotion to a coupon for lunch in the courthouse cafeteria. At the end of the month, all the tags, including those who had won weekly gifts, for that month went into the box and there was a drawing for the \$50 donated each month. The more a staff member exercised, the more tags entered in the drawing and the better their chance of winning.

We recorded 456 workouts during the five month period and more than 80 percent of the staff participated. At the end of the program, staffers were asked to fill out a questionnaire anonymously. Here's what some of them had to say:

- People do look forward to that weekly and monthly drawing! I like the idea – fun and I enjoyed it
- Initially participated hoping to win the \$, but after a while did it because it was fun
- It was worth it and it made people feel good about themselves
- It was just something extra that let me know that even when I'm annoying or cranky because I don't agree with something that I'm still cared about and valued as an employee.

Seated (l to r) in the Supreme Court Conference Room are Ruth M. Corriveau, Executive Secretary Office of the Courts; Nancy Murray, Court Assistant, Belknap County Superior Court; Margaret Haskett, Executive Secretary to the Chief Justice, New Hampshire Supreme Court. Standing (l to r) are Kimberly Quint, Register of Probate, Strafford County Probate Court; Bonnie Cook, AOC Support Specialist II; and Lynn Killkelley, Clerk, Merrimack District Court. These employees were honored for 25 years of service at the ceremony on October 27, 2005.



Thanks to Judges Bruce Mohl and Peter Fauver, Master Stephanie Nute and Deputy Clerks Susan Ashley and Kimberly Weibrecht for their generous support of the program, which we hope to initiate again next year. 🇺🇸

OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP LEARNING

A number of educational programs will be offered for staff during the upcoming months.

- A new program on customer service will be offered at three different locations: Plymouth District Court on April 14, AOC in Concord on April 20 and Hillsborough Superior Court in Nashua on May 10. There will be ½ day sessions starting in the morning. Focusing on the challenges of good customer service in the court system, the program will provide participants with practical skills for dealing with customer service situations in the court environment.
- The four-session training on supervisory skills will be held on March 16, April 6, May 4 and June 6, 2006. Participants are selected based on an application process.
- For those who have the responsibility for interviewing and hiring new employees, a half day program will be offered entitled: "Catch 'Em and Keep 'Em: A Guide to Good Hiring Practices." The program will be offered on March 10 at the Hillsborough Superior Court in Nashua and on March 24 at the AOC in Concord.

New employee orientation and training will be expanded to three days beginning in 2006. The first day will be presented by the Human Resources staff and the IT department. The second day focuses on customer service and an introduction to the judicial branch. The third day consists of ethics for court employees, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the judicial branch policies on complaints involving workplace harassment. While the program is mandatory for new employees, any employee can attend any or all of the sessions.

For more information about the programs, contact Judicial Branch Education Coordinator Barbara Sweet at 271-2521 ext 301. 🇺🇸

FAMILY MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY



Army Guard Major
Tevye Yoblick, son-in-
law of Brenda Pelkey.

Army National Guard Major **Tevye Yoblick**, whose mother in law, **Brenda Pelkey**, works at Jaffrey Peterborough District Court, is currently stationed in Taji, Iraq, where he is working to train and equip the Iraqi Army. Major Yoblick's wife, Kelly and son, Alexander, 7, live in Ft. Belvoir, Va.

U.S. Army **Spc. Jason D. Belcourt**, 23, son of court monitor **Murielle M. Soucy** is stationed at Camp Humphries, Korea, where he is a Chinook Helicopter mechanic. Jason joined the Army in May of 2001 and was attached to the 82nd Airborne as a Paratrooper and was stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. While Jason was a Paratrooper/Infantryman, he did a tour in Iraq as a gunner in 2003. During that year, his daughter, Natalie, was born and he was able to come home for two weeks to be there for her birth. In June of 2004, Jason re-enlisted for another four years and trained to become a helicopter mechanic. He has been stationed in Korea since the spring.



U.S. Army Capt.
Mark DeRocchi,
cousin of Kearston
Crutchfield and
Brandi Parker-Brown.

U.S. Army **Capt. Mark DeRocchi**, whose cousins **Kearston Crutchfield** and **Brandi Parker-Brown** work at Strafford County Superior Court, is in Kuwait right now for training. Mark, a West Point graduate, is the Commander of the Alpha (Engineer) 4th BTB, 506th RCT, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). This is his second trip overseas. He returned home from Iraq after his first assignment just prior to Christmas 2003. He and his wife, Melissa have a baby boy, Matthew, and they are stationed in Tennessee.

Adam Hatch, son of **Kathy A. Hatch** of the Grafton County Superior Court, is serving with the U.S. Air Force at the Bagram Military Base in Afghanistan. He is expected to return to Davis/Montham Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona in January.

Sgt. Adam Sheldon, son of **Denise Sheldon** of the Supreme Court staff in Concord, is expected to arrive back at Ft. Stewart, Ga. from Baghdad in late December, finishing his second tour in Iraq where he was a welding specialist at Camp Prosperity in the International Zone. Also at the Supreme Court, **Donna Nadeau's** son, **SPC John Paul Nadeau**, is expected back in the United States in January. John Paul has been serving as a medic with the U.S. Army dive team in the Middle East.

Sgt. Courtnee Downs, who is stationed in Rustamiyah, in eastern Baghdad, will be leaving Iraq in January after 11 months. Courtnee, the daughter of **Taylor M. Downs** at Dover District Court, is an MP and now plans to train to be a helicopter pilot. 🇺🇸

John Paul Nadeau, son of Donna Nadeau at the Supreme Court, stands eighth from the right with fellow dive team members.



IN BRIEF...

New Forms and Information on the Web for Jurors and Pro Se Litigants...

Prospective jurors can now complete the juror questionnaire on their computer, print it out and mail it to the appropriate court rather than having to complete the form by hand. The form is available on the Judicial Branch website www.courts.state.nh.us.

The web pages on jury service have been significantly expanded to include information about procedures at individual courts, directions to court locations, information about parking and "Frequently Asked Questions" about jury service.

The juror handbook is re-printed in this section which explains the trial process and other facts about the legal system. A legal glossary defines some of the more common terms heard during a trial. Specific instructions are also provided for jurors who need their service postponed or want to be excused.

A new online "self-help center" provides pro se litigants with comprehensive, user-friendly information about court procedures and available legal services. Links are also available to agencies and organizations that assist people during the court process, including mediation. Forms and step-by-step guidelines for litigants to follow in certain types of cases, such as divorce, are also available on the website. The site does not provide legal advice.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

AOC

Lisa McDevitt was hired on November 14, 2005 as the Executive Secretary to Don Goodnow, the director of the AOC.

Peter Wolfe, who retired as clerk of Sullivan County Superior Court, has been appointed the Judicial Branch Alternative Dispute Resolution coordinator.

SUPREME COURT

Brian Haley is the new Reference Librarian at the N.H. Law Library. **Susan Barnard** has been promoted from Region II Court Security Officer Supervisor to Chief Court Security Officer.

FAMILY DIVISION

Jill Frotton was promoted from Court Assistant III to Court Systems Clerk. **June Hoffman** was promoted from Court Assistant II to Court Assistant III within the Brentwood Family Division. **Lillian Deeb** was promoted from Family Division Court Monitor/Assistant to Rockingham County Family Division Case Manager. **Donna Wasiewski** was promoted from at Court Assistant II to Court Monitor Assistant.

Dawn Capasso was promoted from Court Assistant II to Court Systems Clerk. **Mary Francoeur** was promoted from Court Assistant IV to Regional Court Clerk on August 22, 2005.

Kathleen Tripp was promoted from Court Assistant II at Exeter District Court to Court Assistant III at Brentwood Family Division. **Robin Pinelle** was promoted from Court Assistant IV at Hillsborough County Superior Court North to Administrative Court Assistant at Derry Family Division. **Rhonda Scully** was promoted from Case Manager II to Court Assistant IV within the Portsmouth Family Division.

SUPERIOR COURT

James Peale was sworn in as Clerk of the Sullivan County Superior Court on December 1, 2005.

Shannon Bryant was promoted from Family Division Court Systems Clerk to Court Assistant IV at Rockingham County Superior Court.

Penny Hawkins was promoted from Court Monitor Assistant to Administrative Court Assistant on September 2, 2005. **Tori Schriver** was promoted from Court Assistant II to Court Assistant III at Cheshire County Superior Court on December 16, 2005. **Jacqueline Johnson** was promoted from Court Assistant III at Hillsborough County Superior Court North to Court Assistant IV. **Mary Tarbell** was promoted from Court Assistant II at Merrimack Probate Court to Court Assistant III at Belknap County Superior

[more on page 8...]

IN BRIEF...

Honors and Awards

Merrimack County Superior Court **Judge Kathleen McGuire** received the 2005 Lawyer of the Year Award from the Merrimack County Bar Association. The award honors contributions to the improvement and well-being of the citizens of Merrimack County. Among many projects, Judge McGuire helped develop the Merrimack Academy, an alternative to prison program for convicted offenders and she was instrumental in arranging for master furniture makers to meet with state prison inmates to talk about woodworking skills and techniques. She also lead the effort to establish "Dress for Success" in New Hampshire a volunteer program that provides professional clothing and assistance to women re-entering the workforce. Internationally, Judge McGuire has traveled to Russia several times as part of the Russian-American Rule of Law Consortium.

Judge Edwin W. Kelly, Administrative Judge of the District Court and the Family Division, received the "Voice for Children Award" from the Child and Family Services. Judge Kelly has initiated many community and statewide projects related to juvenile justice and domestic violence. Under Judge Kelly's leadership, the District Court was awarded a major grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to establish "Reclaiming Futures" in New Hampshire. The program looks for new ways for communities and courts to work with juveniles involved in drugs, alcohol and crime.

Kristin Lamont, who coordinates permanency planning in the District Court for children in foster care, received the Director's Award from the Division of Children Youth and Families. As a leader in the "Court Improvement Project," Lamont played a key role in development of protocols used in state courts in cases involving abuse and neglect of children. The project required a long-term collaborative effort among a wide range of groups, including the courts, DCYF, the New Hampshire bar, lawmakers, law enforcement and children's advocates.

Information provided by the NH Bar News.



Lisa McDevitt,
Executive Secretary
to the Director of
the AOC



Loretta Kenison,
center, and U.S.
Supreme Court
Justice David H.
Souter, second
from the right, with
members of the
N.H. Supreme Court
at the unveiling of
a new portrait of
Mrs. Kenison's late
husband, Chief
Justice Frank R.
Kenison (see p. 1).
Justice Souter
served on the N.H.
Supreme Court
from 1983-1990.

COURT CONNECTIONS

Editor
Laura Kiernan

Associate Editor
Joan Bishop

Staff Photographer
Laura Mitchell

Technical Assistance
Laurie Mikels

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New Hampshire
Judicial Branch



Michelle Caraway,
Clerk of the Concord
District Court

On the Move continued...

Court. **Juanita Orzechowski** was promoted from Court Assistant II to Court Monitor Assistant on December 1, 2005.

DISTRICT COURT

On September 29, 2005 **Edward M. Gordon** was sworn in as the Presiding Justice of the Franklin District Court.

Honorable **Daniel Cappiello** was appointed Presiding Justice of Rochester District Court on October 7, 2005.

James Leary was sworn in as Presiding Justice of the Nashua District Court on July 26, 2005

Mark F. Weaver was appointed Special Justice of the Hampton District Court on November 4, 2005.

The Executive Council confirmed the nomination of **Edward J. Burke** as Presiding Judge of Keene District Court on December 5, 2005.

Sherry Bisson was promoted from Family Division Regional Court Clerk to Clerk of the Salem District Court on May 2, 2005. **Megan Mahoney** was promoted from Court Assistant II to Courtroom Clerk at Concord District Court. **Julia Lamson** was promoted from Courtroom Clerk at Concord District Court to District Court Court Systems Clerk. **Renee Camara** was promoted from Courtroom Clerk to Court Assistant III at Nashua District Court. **Debra Turgeon** was promoted from Case Manager in the Drug Court to District Court Court Systems Clerk on October 1, 2005. **Diane Carroll** was promoted from Court Assistant III at Claremont Family to Court Systems Clerk for the District Court. **Julie Phelps** was promoted from Court Assistant II to Court Assistant III at Plaistow District Court.

Lisa Scafidi was promoted from Court Systems Clerk in the District Court to Clerk of Hooksett District Court on December 12, 2005.

Michelle Caraway is now Clerk of the Concord District Court following the departure of Quentin Blaine to private law practice. Michelle was the former Assistant Executive Director of the NH Public Utilities Commission.

RETIREMENTS

Hillsboro District Court Presiding Justice **Douglas Hatfield** retired on October 28, 2005.

Ruth Corriveau retired from her position of Executive Secretary to the Director of the AOC on November 18, 2005. Ruth had worked for the court system for 25 years.

Elsie Minor retired on December 15, 2005 from Cheshire County Superior Court.

Carol Taylor-Wright announced her retirement as Court Clerk III at Exeter District Court effective January 17, 2006.

Barbara Jackson plans to retire from her position of Court Assistant IV at the Nashua District Court on February 1, 2006. 🇺🇸

Did You Know?

By Joan Bishop

John Collins is a newcomer to the AOC, working three days a week, traveling around the state, trying to make court offices and buildings a safer and more comfortable environment. John has taken over court facilities duties from Gary Fowler, who now has the time he needs to focus on court system statistics and analysis.



While the government arena is new to him, John has worked in the area of facilities management for most of his career. He retired in August of 2004 from Dartmouth College where he worked in the Department of Facilities, Operations and Management. Collins lives on a farm in Warner with his wife and daughter.

"I like working for the state," says Collins, "There is a very productive and harmonious group of people working in the courts."

Several court facilities projects are now underway statewide. Renovation projects at Sullivan Superior Court, Portsmouth District Court and Claremont District Court include fitting work stations with equipment ergonomically designed to help staff members reduce physical stress and improve comfort levels-- particularly at computer terminals. Meanwhile, the Henniker District Court has been relocated to a newly renovated site, just a short distance from the court's longtime home in the town hall. The Hampton District Court has moved to a temporary, newly renovated location in Seabrook.

Collins also has been involved in arranging for new security glass for the Merrimack Superior and Probate Courts and the Hillsborough District Court. According to Collins, preliminary discussions are underway to identify space needs for a new Merrimack County Courthouse which in the future would house the Superior and Probate courts and some administrative offices.

"I feel good when I make someone's office a safer, better place to work," Collins said.